

# Point Three



The Toc H magazine  
April 1983 10p



**CUDDESDON HOUSE**

(pages 8-10)



# Point Three

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Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911). Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

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Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's playschemes to arts festivals and even bird watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House – the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

Members accept a four fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
4. To work for the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points – to think fairly.

## Cover Picture

It works! At the potter's wheel during a pottery and woodwork week at Cuddesdon House.

Photo: Mary Heslam

# Personal View

*What a travesty to think religion means saving my little soul with my little good deeds and the rest of the world go hang.*  
Gerald Vann

On 10 April, just 154 years ago, William Booth was born in Nottingham. His lasting monument is The Salvation Army, that 'international religious movement composed of men and women who, moved by the love of God, seek the spiritual and social betterment of their fellows'.

The young William Booth had the shattering experience of 'conversion' in, I think, 1844, when he was only 15 years old and this experience was the driving force for his life's work. He earned a considerable early reputation as a lay preacher with the Wesleyan Methodists, though, it is said, some were alarmed by the passion – the violence even – of his preaching style. He became a superintendent minister with the 'Methodist New Connexion' – the first secession from the original Wesleyan Methodist Church.

William's wife Catherine (they married in 1855) shared all his convictions and enthusiasms and became herself a noted preacher. Still in his early 30s, William parted from Methodism and launched his own revivalist mission in Whitechapel, in the East End of London. His unique mixture of evangelism and social work prospered in 'The East London Christian Mission'. After a dozen years or so of the Booths' devoted work, The Christian Mission became The Salvation Army in 1878.

The Salvation Army was a singularly appropriate name for this fast growing movement, committed to unrelenting warfare against Satan and all the fearsome social evils of the Victorian inner city. The analogy fired imaginations and the Army rapidly built up its famous military style organisation with ranks, brass bands and flags. Their best known publication (founded in 1879) became *War Cry*. Their leader became the Army's 'General' (far easier on the tongue and memory than the original 'General Superintendent of the Christian Mission'). For a while it looked even as though a military dynasty was being founded for William's son succeeded him when he died: but, for more than 50 years now, the General has been elected by the Council of the Army's leading officers.

The Army spread rapidly here and across the world and William's later years were spent largely in travelling, organising, preaching. I have no recent figures to hand but, when I last noted them, the Army, having worked through the darkness of two world wars, was operating in more than 80 countries and claimed a membership of two million. There were about 100,000 members in the UK with more than 200 centres helping people in need. World wide, they had some 20,000 units and were running 800 schools and getting on for 2,000 centres of help (hospitals, clinics, children's homes etc).

William was not an intellectual or a theologian but his powerful preaching, deep sympathy with the poor and natural business sense made the Army the most successful religious revival of modern times. Its beliefs are Evangelical but without the Church's sacramental system; they place a strong emphasis on personal standards. (Members are called on for 'unquestioning obedience' and total abstinence, for example.) Interestingly, from its beginnings, the Army has practised equality between men and women.

In his London mission, William set out to preach the word of Jesus to those not reached by the Churches. The main influence in his own life was his 'conversion' and the thrust of his ministry was towards bringing this deep, personal experience to others. But most of his hearers needed food and shelter too. Hence in all his work – and in the Army's work ever since – practical help has gone hand in hand with a spiritual ministry.

In 1890 (the year Catherine died), William published *'In Darkest England and the Way Out'*. Besides offering a wide ranging and detailed study of the condition of the poor, the book proposed some practical solutions. It attracted great acclaim and marked the start of the period of the Army's general acceptance as a significant force. Honours were heaped on him – Oxford's Hon DCL, Freedom of the City of London, an audience with Edward VII. He accepted them for the Army, not for himself. The book's huge sales and the generous subscriptions it attracted to the Army's work made it possible to set up a Trust to activate his social remedies at home and abroad.

William Booth was a reformer recognised in his own lifetime. When he died in 1912, he was mourned round the world. His life work significantly pushed forward improvements in the lot of the poor. But, as we know, *they* are always with us, so that the Army still has many battles to fight. Wren is buried in his architectural masterpiece, St Paul's, and his epitaph reads, *'Si monumentum requiris, circumspice'*: We can look at the Salvation Army, and say the same of its great architect, William Booth.





*Toc H in Uckfield (E Sussex) moved into Ringwood Rise to entertain the residents.*



*Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay Joint Branch (Ayrshire) staged a production of 'Upstairs, Downstairs' to a capacity audience of senior citizens. The cast was augmented by drawing in local doctors and clergy.*



*They're ahead of schedule! Lindley Toc H demolished a wall and made a wheelchair ramp at the Beechwood Cheshire Home, to give access to a conservatory which is planned on the site.*



*One of the many magnificent flower arrangements mounted at Wallasey Branch's floral demonstraion in aid of the St John's Hospice appeal. (See story in Round and About in our March issue.)*

## The Blooms of Hope-An Easter Message by Revd Richard Fox

In my garden, the green spikes of the daffodils have now become green lances, about to unfurl their saffron pennants. Soon there will be a cavalcade of golden daffodils to greet the festival of Easter which proclaims Christ's Resurrection. How different in character from Christmas set in the midnight chime of starry skies, while Easter is a thing of the dawn. Bethlehem's tale is alive with the expectancy of those in search of the wondrous child they know has been born: Easter is about the desolate Mary, who could not sleep for her sorrows, coming to the tomb, expecting nothing. To me, Easter is like a jewel placed on black velvet to set off its glory. The Resurrection emerges in shining contrast against the sombre background of Christ's passion and Calvary's last woe hours. Christmas is the tale of a child which commends itself so naturally to children

and to the child that is in us all. But Easter's message is for those of mature experience whose journey through life has taken them through the valley of bereavement and who have endured their own private calvary when something dies within them.

Easter is a time for people to throng the churches and lift their voices in triumphant proclamation. Jesus Christ is risen today! Alleluia! But it is more truly a time for solitary individuals who see themselves like Mary, the saddened one by the tomb, keeping vigil with a memory.

It was dawn but there was only darkness in her heart, till suddenly the astounding truth broke upon her: the dead Christ had risen to new life! For her, the dawning of new hope, new assurance. It always seems so right that the risen

Christ made his first appearance in the sweet and scintillating freshness of an oriental dawn. Blessed are those who find just such a dawn of new hope for them. How lovely is the dawn of a spring morning though I often wonder if dawn is not fairer still for those who have travelled through the night and see its beauty gloriously emerging from the womb of the darkness. Thus comes the truth of Easter to those who have walked through bereavement's night. A new day for them to be welcomed with a song as the birds greet morning with their dawn chorus. If Christ be not risen — then is your faith in vain. They say they believe that Jesus rose from death! How come then that they tell me who he was, instead of telling me who he is?

May God be very real to bless you on this Easter Day and every day all the year.



# Round and about with Scott Shaw

## Children in The Den

For the second year in succession Peterborough & Stamford District children's holiday took place at the Poacher's Den when 12 boys and girls stayed at this new Toc H Residential Centre. Our correspondent George Dixon reports that a full programme included visits to the local sports centre, bird sanctuary, country life museum, the seaside and Norfolk Wildlife Park. A points system aroused keen competition amongst the children who participated eagerly in all activities. Says George: *'Much of the success of the holiday was due to the helpfulness and participation of local people in West Pinchbeck who hold Toc H in such high esteem and have shown great interest in this centre in the heart of their community'.*

## Bargoed are busy!

The four new members who have joined Bargoed Branch aren't likely to be unoccupied! With profits from their Christmas bazaar, the Branch bought gifts for the sick, elderly and housebound; and in March they also organised a Welsh tea and entertainment for an old people's home. However, they still found time to celebrate the 80th birthday of Jenny Williams, one of their members. She's still active — of course!

## 'Princess Di' needed a shave

I'm beginning to feel uneasy at the growing trend of male members dressing up as royalty — Princess Diana, to be precise! Another case presented itself on the weekend project organised by SPECTRUM, the youth action group operating in the Croydon area.

For some years now, Toc H has run weekend projects at the Searchlight Workshop for physically handicapped people in Newhaven. Our correspondent, Dave Marsh (he's the one in the dress) reports *'the aim of the weekend was not painting or gardening as it has been in the past, but to provide some Christmas entertainment for the residents'.*

Volunteers took some of the residents to the Brighton dolphinarium, but the high spot of the weekend was the fancy dress party — plenty of food, games, and, judging by the picture, some very confused people. *'By the end of the evening', reports Dave 'both the residents, volunteers and local Branch members were full of the seasonal spirit.'*

Photo: Dave Marsh



## Are we a lot of miseries?

*'I never thought I'd enjoy going to a Toc H meeting'* said a guest after enjoying a party organised by Wigmore and Rainham men and women.

Our correspondent Ted Gorf asks — *'Where did we get such a reputation?'* Where indeed. Perhaps we should all ask ourselves if our local community see us as a lot of sad people, only emerging on solemn occasions, such as Remembrance Day Services — the only time that many Branches appear in public.

The Wigmore and Rainham 'do' was an evening of riotous fun, however, with a buffet, games, dancing, and a raffle with prizes donated by local tradesmen and friends. The surplus of £200 was donated to Cancer Relief.

Well done, ladies and gentlemen — you've proved that Toc H can enjoy itself — and do a lot of good at the same time!

## Branch twinning — it's started!

In the February *Ideas Corner* we suggested Branches, District Branches or Groups might like to form pairs, exchanging letters or tapes to build up a mutually beneficial friendship.

Our first two Branches — Paddock, Huddersfield, and Saltford, Bristol — wrote in promptly, and have now been 'twinning'.

So come on, don't be shy — let's have some more!

## Who is this mystery man?

Twice in recent months, we've been scratching our heads about a scarlet pimpinell in the North Wales and North West Region.

Twice he's visited people who'd enquired about Toc H, and stirred up their interest with his enthusiasm and commitment.

Twice he's left them some information leaflets and

Twice he's omitted his name and address from the 'contacts' section of the leaflets, so they can't get in touch with him.

And so we're wondering — how can we attract new members if they don't know who to get back to? We hope you don't do this sort of thing...

## Much doing in the Marsh!

I expect you're thinking of your holidays — but spare a thought for Marsh District, who are planning holidays for other people.

The District owns a caravan near Skegness and each Branch in Lincolnshire and South Humberside is allotted two weeks, when they can offer a holiday to a needy family in their own locality.

Last year the caravan was let for 16 weeks; it will be available this year but, says our correspondent June Linton, its future is in the balance owing to a change in site ownership.

June also writes of other District work — the day out for handicapped children, organised by Mablethorpe and the townspeople (in collaboration with Mansfield, who organise the transport) — an event which has been running now for 22 years.

Then there's the invaluable hospital car service run by Mablethorpe and Sutton. The vehicle has just had a £600 overhaul and respray and looks very smart with its Toc H symbol.

Going on to Christmas (gets sooner every year, doesn't it?) Sutton men have handed over to a local youth club their traditional carols-round-the-Christmas-tree celebration in the town centre. Local people are assisted by the Salvation Army band and fuelled with hot mince pies!

June gives further details of other valuable activities in the District which, sadly, lack of space prevents me from mentioning. There's another reason too — we don't want to give the other Districts an inferiority complex!



## The Toc H light and SHADO

Have you noticed how Toc H is going into show business? The latest Branches to join the list of impresarios are Burraton men and women.

Money was needed for a meeting place for SHADO (Saltash Handicapped and Disabled Organisation) and Toc H decided to raise money with a concert starring the Devon and Cornwall Police Band and Saltash Junior School Choir. It was a 'tremendous success', says our correspondent Des Ellis, and the organisation benefited to the tune (sorry!) of £235.

## Heart attack but a happy ending

Dave Collins of Hoddesdon Branch had a heart attack while at The Old House. A wheelchair would have been useful, so when he returned, Dave put the wheels in motion. The Branch donated £20, raised the rest and the Old House now has a wheelchair.

## They're big, they're young and they're active!

How many members in your Branch — ten? Twenty? Thirty even? Bridlington TAG (Toc H Action Group) have 34 young members and they've been busy as bees last year.

They often spend their weekends giving outings to deprived children, or organise discos for residents of a local community home.

They also took local children on an adventure holiday at the Colsterdale centre last summer — and raised the £1,000 to pay for it.

Finally, they rounded off the year with not one activity but three — a carol singing tour round the town, which helped raise funds for a similar adventure holiday this year, delivered presents to a local council home; and took 30 local children to a Christmas pantomime.

Well done, Bridlington TAG — you're a real tonic!

## No more holidays

Sadly, the Marches District has had to dispose of its holiday chalet at Clarach Bay near Aberystwyth and cease its free holiday activities. Operating costs became too great and the three Branches involved felt they could put the money to better use locally. Our correspondent George Dakin says 'We can however take pleasure from the fact that whilst it was in use we gave 200 free holidays to needy or handicapped families'.

## The bride was a bloke!

We seem to be going through an interesting phase — in the March issue we had a TAG member dressed as Hilda Ogden, and now here's a bride with a moustache!

Wulfrun and South Staffs District held a mock wedding reception, where the roles are reversed. The only exception was staff man George Lee, who played the vicar — shouldn't he have been a Deaconess?

When all the toasts had been drunk and the speeches made, the wedding presents were auctioned and raised £44 for the family handbag — sorry — purse!

## A busy year for Llandrindod Wells

George Dakin reports: 'Throughout the year we visited a residential home for the elderly, presenting an Old Tyme concert one evening, and providing help every week at the town day centre.'

'In September we celebrated 50 years of Toc H with a 200 strong District gathering and we also found ourselves a new home, transforming a disused flour store into a really attractive Upper Room.'

'Christmas was an active time. On 16 December we held our annual carol service in the historic Caebach Chapel, the oldest Nonconformist church in Mid-Wales; on 23 December our carol party visited the local hospital, old folks home and two nursing homes; 30 December we gave a variety show at another home for the elderly and during early December we distributed cash gifts to 25 needy families.'

## Spirituality — are you pushing or just drifting?

How often do you talk about spiritual matters? Do you have a Pilot, and does he or she really work at the job? The Pilot's job is, quite simply, the spiritual health of the Branch, and I found a recent item in the Kidderminster Times particularly heartening.

It reports that Norman Foxall, the Pilot of Wyre Forest Branch by progressive questions, 'led Branch members on to a clearer understanding of themselves, the Branch and the Movement as a whole. The value of fellowship and the potential of even a small group were some of the points which emerged from a wide ranging discussion'.

If properly prepared and thoughtfully done, such an evening can be both rewarding and stimulating — a great help in the tough job of becoming a working Christian.



Photo: John Grocott

## Plain questions, straight answers

'Staff live rent free in Toc H houses, they get perks like free cars and as for that lot at HQ — they're over paid and under worked.' Bricks like that are tossed in our direction quite regularly — perhaps by you — so you might be interested in an informative cassette which was despatched in January to councillors, staff and honorary staff, dealing with some of the more down to earth questions that concern most of us.

If you haven't heard the tape yet, ask your central councillor about it — and do write in if you've got any queries!

## When Conwy 'Andover' to someone else!

Don't always do it yourself — get someone else involved! We've two examples of this philosophy, the first from Conwy. We thought all Welsh people could sing, but Conwy can't muster a choir; however, they know where to find one! Responsible for entertainment at a local hospital, they booked the Conwy Women's Institute to sing for the residents.

Down in Andover, Toc H invited young singers and musicians from a local school to entertain an appreciative audience with songs, carols, classical and contemporary music. A sale of food, toys, plants and bric-a-brac raised £85.

## And briefly . . .

Josephine Williams, chairman of Blackpool women, recently celebrated her diamond wedding anniversary and 55 years in Toc H . . .

Congratulations to Pauline Vessey, a sufferer from rheumatoid arthritis, who has been awarded the MBE for her work in the local Branch of the British Rheumatism and Arthritis Council of which she is a founder member.

Both Pauline and her parents are builders and supporters of the Melton Mowbray Branches.



## Jock Brown

From time to time, we get enquiries from members about Jock Brown who has lived and carried the Toc H banner in Gibraltar for many, many years. After a number of recent attempts to make contact with him, we wrote to Gibraltar's Commissioner of Police and have had the following reply:

'W B (Jock) Brown MBE

'Thank you for your letter of 21 January.

'Regular visits are paid to Jock Brown by two Police Officer friends of his. They inform me that Jock at the age of 91 is generally well after having recovered from the effects of a broken leg suffered in a car accident in February 1982. His sight is not what it should be and he has become rather absent minded. He is very well looked after by his housekeeper and we understand is not in need of any help.

'Should you or any of his friends wish to write to him, his address is still known as c/o Toc H, South Bastion, Gibraltar.'

# What Can We Do?

by Philip Carter

Fifty years ago, those of us who were newly initiated to Toc H were often warned that though it was difficult to define precisely what Toc H was, we must always bear in mind that it must never be allowed to degenerate into 'a mere fund raising organisation'. Perhaps our early mentors feared that Toc H would come to be regarded as a collection of beggars, — or 'beggies'. Each unit had its own 'Jobbie', whose function was to discover what was needed in his unit's parish, and to use his knowledge of his fellow members' capabilities to get those needs satisfied. Sometimes an Old People's Home lacked a gardener, or was short of someone to saw and chop the firewood supplied by the local estate owners. At other times, a Hospice for handicapped youngsters lacked 'pushers' to propel their wheelchairs into the nearest village, for shopping.

The emphasis, so far as Toc H was concerned, was placed on utter reliability, to turn up regularly, and to behave so reliably that both 'patients', and those ultimately responsible for their welfare, could be absolutely sure that what had been promised would be done.

No doubt this idea emanated from the undoubted fact that, in those days, the great majority of us were either young men, in quite humbly paid occupations, or returned Servicemen trying to rebuild the careers that Service had interrupted. In other words, we were not in a position to ease our consciences by doubling our charity contributions. Clearly, we had time and energy to give, rather than money, though this was a bit hard on those fellows who still had degrees and professional examinations to face. But they, too, could usually afford to take a little time off from 'swotting', to join in the Jobbie's programme.

Nowadays, the position is a bit different. Toc H still has its modicum of youngsters, some more ambitious than others, but it also has quite a number of 'pensioners', whose working (or rather, salary earning) days are over and whose leisure is correspondingly greater. Some of us, having families scattered by the exigencies of business, and having been 'widower-ed', have even more spare time than we rightly know what to do with.

Does Toc H agree that the time has now come, at which such 'ancients' may rightly feel that they are doing a worthwhile Toc H job, if they harness such energies and skills as may remain to them, to the raising of funds for such uncontroversial charities as the Cheshire Foundation, Dr Barnardo's, and the like? Bearing in mind that our time and resources may run out abruptly, and that it is not so much a matter of initiating things, as of 'seeing them through to their completion', is it not wiser to back up others, than to attempt to launch our own, very frail, canoes?

None of this is to be construed as a criticism of the traditional Jobbies' function — far from it. For I personally have profited exceedingly, from complying with a certain 'Jobbie's' dictum. In the early 1930s I was detailed to 'lend a hand' at a Youth Club. One of my fellow jobbers was supplied by the local LWH unit. Five years later, she agreed to marry me, and we had over 46 years together...

**Note:** In his covering letter, Philip asks for members' views on the question he poses in his penultimate paragraph. Why not write to Open Forum to tell him — and us — what you think? — Editor



Dunton Green (Kent) Branch Chairman presents a lightweight wheelchair to the Matron of Dynes Home for residents' use.



Some of Dunton Green (Kent) members, wives and friends at the first social in their new home. Recently, the Branch had the traumatic experience of losing the use of the room that had been their home for some 50 years — but they are in good heart!



# Problems of the Unemployed Coloured Youth in East London

by Peter Sutton

Caroline Adams of the Tower Hamlets Youth Employment Projects and the Revd Gordon Kendall, a worker-priest with the Community Industry Manpower Services Commission, came to Prideaux House on 29 January to speak to the South East Regional Council. . .

Caroline began by asking each member of her audience to try and recall their first job: the excitement and anxiety of the interview, the feeling of achievement on being accepted, the first day's work and the subsequent hopes and ambitions for the future. We should then try to imagine what our youth would have been like if none of that had happened. And it was not happening to those with whom she was working and for a substantial number it would never happen. To get a job is looked upon as growing up and gives status.

Apprenticeship can provide this status even though the income may be small, but apprenticeship is becoming a thing of the past, thanks to the combined effect of recession and mechanisation. The alternative is leisure but the youngsters don't learn how to use it. They could and should be taught this in the schools so that they might have something to help them when they leave school. But many never leave school: they simply lose interest and stop going. For some the alternative is drugs which could conceivably be looked upon as a blessing as they provide a feeling of well being and satisfaction, however false.

But there is a brighter side. It may be that that first job turned out to be a dead end. The young people can be taught to do better than they otherwise would and here the schools could give more help. For instance they could teach about the opportunities for leisure in London. Many of those with whom Caroline works know nothing about their local library, and in any case, owing to budget cuts, libraries can fail to meet basic needs: for example there are reading rooms which no longer have copies of the daily papers. But she is able to persuade some youngsters to join learning groups. A few are even studying English at 'O' level; schooling is being mixed with outings so that the youngsters become familiar with what goes on in London -

# For your diary

## Open Day at Port Penrhyn

See what's happening at Port Penrhyn!

The Centre will be open to visitors on St George's Day (23 April) from 2pm to 5pm. Everyone welcome. Tea will be available.

The full address is: Port Penrhyn, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 4HN. (Telephone: 0248 (Bangor) 51906).

it is all very informal and exciting. YOPS (Youth Opportunity Scheme), NTI (New Training Initiative), YTS (Youth Training Scheme), etc often only provide cheap labour and the help they can give is sometimes limited. But they can also provide contacts which some are able to use to their advantage.

Gordon spoke about his work with Community Industry. It started with small numbers about 11 years ago, designed mainly for youngsters in trouble. It has a wage structure which is paid by the central government and the local council provides the premises. The youngsters are taught manual skills and many of the schemes turn out a very high standard of work. Community Industry now provides some school leavers, without literacy or numeracy, their only opportunity. For the others, who may be black and unemployed, the position is almost hopeless.

Gordon spoke of the multi-cultural society, but he finds that multi-culture occurs only in small pockets of the population. Where it exists it is good, but mostly black and white people do not integrate. But he does not think that positive discrimination is the answer. It often means that those who are capable and 'get on' are looked upon as being protected by such discrimination. It is bad for their self esteem and lowers their achievement in the eyes of the community.

Often black youngsters who have tried and failed do not try again for fear of another failure and many have to be nursed through any subsequent attempt. One girl was in fact so gently and kindly treated that she couldn't cope and left the job, but that particular case fortunately ended happily.

The result of the many difficulties means that much talent and energy is going to

# W Midlands and S Wales Region Regional Rally

at  
Pates Grammar School  
Cheltenham  
Gloucester

on  
Saturday 10 September 1983  
from 2pm to 7pm

This is a chance for members - old and new - from the Region or farther afield, to meet, sing, be entertained and fed! The day will end with an Act of Rededication at which the Bishop of Gloucester will give the address.

Prices:  
Adults: £3.00 (including meal)  
£1.50 (without meal)  
Children: £2.00 (including meal)  
£1.00 (without meal)

Tickets from:  
Miss Mayberry Smith  
15 Benhall Avenue  
Cheltenham, Glos

ALL ARE WELCOME

# Toc H Summer School

at  
Alison House, Intake Lane,  
Cromford, Matlock  
Derbyshire DE4 3RH

Saturday 9 July - Saturday 16 July

Theme:  
Christian Witness in Industrial Society

The principal speaker will be Revd Michael Williams (Industrial Chaplain to the Bishop of St Asaph). There will be other speakers and other events (yet to be arranged) and plenty of time to explore the lovely countryside around.

Cost:  
£58 pp, full board (single room)  
£54 pp, full board (shared twin room)

Note that this year the Summer School is open to all. Enquiries and bookings, please, to: Cyril H Carrier, 367 Hungerford Road, Crewe CW1 0EZ. (Telephone 0270 582870).

waste. Some are saying 'I am useless, I have nothing to give'. These youngsters must be persuaded that as human beings they have worth. Their situation is indeed grim.



# Cuddesdon House by Colin Rudd

## Why?

Finding a house to follow Dor Knap was one of the more difficult tasks which has faced the Central Executive Committee. Variety of expectation among the membership was only exceeded by the variety of different uses for which the house would have to be suitable! About the only thing upon which most members agreed was that, if possible, we should buy rather than lease, so that the new house would not be in danger of coming to the same end as Dor Knap.

Months of looking followed. Several possibilities presented themselves, but, for one reason or another, none was considered suitable. Then — 'We've found it!' 'It' was a bishop's palace, now surplus to the need of the Church Commissioners. Immediately there flashed into my mind a picture of all the bishop's palaces I knew of — all of them palaces in every sense of the word. They were all very large, Victorian, cold with an unshakeable determination, and in sad need of repair — all of which, of course, was why they were being sold!

It's good when one's worst fears are made to look ridiculous. This particular one time bishop's palace was built in the early 1960s for the bishops of Oxford on the site of the previous house, which had burnt down. It turns out to have been much to our advantage that no-one really seems to have asked when they built it whether a village in the heart of the Oxfordshire countryside — some five

miles from Oxford — was still the right place for a bishop of Oxford to live in the latter half of the 20th century. A minimal bus service, soon to go the way of many other country routes, left the bishop in isolation from his diocese in a splendid house which no-one could get to without a car, and which neither he nor his wife could leave without one — a kind of episcopal gilded cage! Not surprisingly, it soon became redundant, and the bishop now lives in Oxford.

## What's It Like?

So that was the house which 'they' found, and their excitement was entirely justified for, in most respects it meets our needs very well. A modern house, in cruciform shape, it stands in four and a half acres of land with the parish church at the end of the garden. With Painting and Music Weeks continuing to run successfully this is sure to become the most painted church in the land! The views stretch from the Chilterns to Didcot's power station, which, since it is quite a distance away, is nowhere near such an ugly thing as you might think. The house boasts a circular drive and it is a strange fact that, every now and again, a car will appear, drive slowly round the circle and go straight out again — perhaps they think that Toc H is some new kind of petrol! We have sufficient bedrooms to accommodate 30 people for a weekend — although if you are thinking of coming for longer it would be better to think in terms of a group of 25.

## The Chapel

When the previous palace was destroyed by fire, the only thing to be saved intact was the bishop's chapel. Built by Bishop Samuel Wilberforce — irreverently known as 'Soapy Sam' — it is a very tall Victorian building, which now looks a great deal older than it really is. It is a listed historic building which we are bound to preserve though internally we have to adapt it for our use. In the fashion of the times the pews were arranged in collegiate fashion — you sat facing each other across the aisle, eyeball to eyeball! This is not the kind of arrangement best suited to the rather more free worship which we now enjoy. An additional problem for us was that the building was impossible to heat, and, further, the odd stone shingle, weighing several pounds, would occasionally slide off the roof. Clearly something had to be done to make the chapel both safe and useable, and an exciting and imaginative scheme was drawn up to divide it horizontally, ie to add an extra floor. The money has been raised for the internal work without an official Toc H Appeal, and without calling upon any central funds except for essential roof repairs. Work has started on the conversion, which will give us a chapel upstairs and a room downstairs which can be used in a wide variety of ways. We hope the work will be completed by August, and are looking forward very much to being able to use these new facilities. I should add that a good deal of the work is being done by the Manpower Services Commission through a YOP scheme, so that we are providing work for six young unemployed men and their supervisor.

The chapel provides a most important part of our life here. There is now a weekly communion service — held at present in the house — which is, among other things, the midweek celebration for the parish of Cuddesdon, and slowly but surely parishioners are beginning to join us. If you have any concerns which you would like us to remember please don't hesitate to let us know. Of course, if you're here on a Wednesday morning and are able to come we shall be all the more delighted. The service is at 10.15 am.

## A Variety of Uses

The house has a wide and varied use, and is developing quite a cosmopolitan flavour — a number of inter-faith weekends have brought us into touch with many different cultures, a French



Photos: Clare Curran





business school comes for a fortnight in the spring, and a weekend run by the International Office brought people from many other parts of Toc H. There is room for a lot of development of this area of work, mostly stemming from the inter-faith weekends. If Toc H is to continue to enable people to meet across the barriers which divide them, providing a warm, friendly and open atmosphere of acceptance, then Cuddesdon, with Oxford so close, has a role to play in this part of the Movement's work.

and reveal new abilities in those who come, are also easily oversubscribed — as the Painting and Music Weeks have been for a long time, and as the Pottery and Woodwork Weeks will come to be.

#### You Can Help!

The move from Dor Knap was not an easy one for the Movement to make. After all, a great number of people had contributed with their skills and time to the building of Dor Knap, and to have to

leave it was a great wrench. Without any doubt, one of the things which contributed to the 'Dor Knap spirit' was the fact that so much work had to be done by us — my own earliest Dor Knap memory is of making up the drive with a bunch of complete strangers, some of whom are still friends. There were many who would have liked to find another house where the same kinds of things could be experienced. However, the very success of Dor Knap over the years in  
/continued on p10

#### Training

Some words are like red rags to bulls. One such word seems to be 'training', and yet it would be hard to find a single activity here which does not contain at least an element of training. Perhaps part of the problem is that we have become altogether too serious about training and what it means. We have, perhaps, mislaid the knack of training while we're having fun. But mistakes creep up on us, and we find ourselves tending to think that unless it's all very serious, and unless we're 'working' hard in the conference room all the time then we're not really training, but are guilty of enjoying ourselves! If you think of training in that kind of way it's small wonder you don't like the idea, and perhaps not surprising that you will think twice before coming to a place which calls itself a Training and Conference Centre! A good antidote to that would be to come to a project leaders', or volunteers', 'training' weekend, for at such weekends training takes place, not in spite of the fun, but through it, and perhaps it's significant that these are the weekends which are most easily over-booked, and where we are under the most pressure to 'try and squeeze in a few more'.

Other weeks, which you might not think of as having any element of training at all, but which nevertheless widen horizons





# Cuddesdon House continued

building up a considerable number of groups who used the house regularly meant that we had to find somewhere where those activities could continue without any break. A property which was ready to be used was a real necessity. In any event, the temptation to try and go back to relive an earlier experience is one which we all have to resist. We have to move forwards. The problem with this has been that we have a house in which some feel that they cannot have the kind of 'stake' which they had in Dor Knap, and they have felt distanced from it. Well, if you feel like that, and yearn to come and do something, keep an eye on *Point Three* – so far this year we have had two weekends during which the long lounge has been re-decorated, and are looking forward to a weekend in June (details to be announced) when we shall tackle the outside. The garden, too, needs constant work, and we have been very grateful in the past to a number of groups who have come to help. And for those who get real twinges of nostalgia there is little more certain but that the drive will want repairing one day!

## Keep Quiet!

Something else we have which will be familiar to lovers of Dor Knap: we have a house where there is space and time for quiet and reflection. This sort of weekend, whether it be a 'quiet weekend', 'inter-faith', or 'reflecting on experience' is of great value both to groups and individuals, and it is encouraging that a number of 'outside' groups are using the house for this kind of purpose.

## So You Haven't Been Yet?

It may be, of course, that the kinds of events which go on here don't really appeal. In that case why not find someone to run an event which you would like to come to – why not run one yourself? It's nowhere near as difficult as you might think, and the staff here will be very glad to help. But don't leave it too late to make a booking – the diary for this year is filling up steadily, so why not enquire about a date now? We shall be very glad to hear from you.

**Note:** The full address is: Cuddesdon House, Cuddesdon, Nr Wheatley, Oxford OX9 9HB. To make a booking, contact the Warden (David Currant). If you want to discuss the use of the house or have any ideas for new types of mid-week or weekend gatherings, write to the Development Officer (Revd Colin Rudd).

– Editor

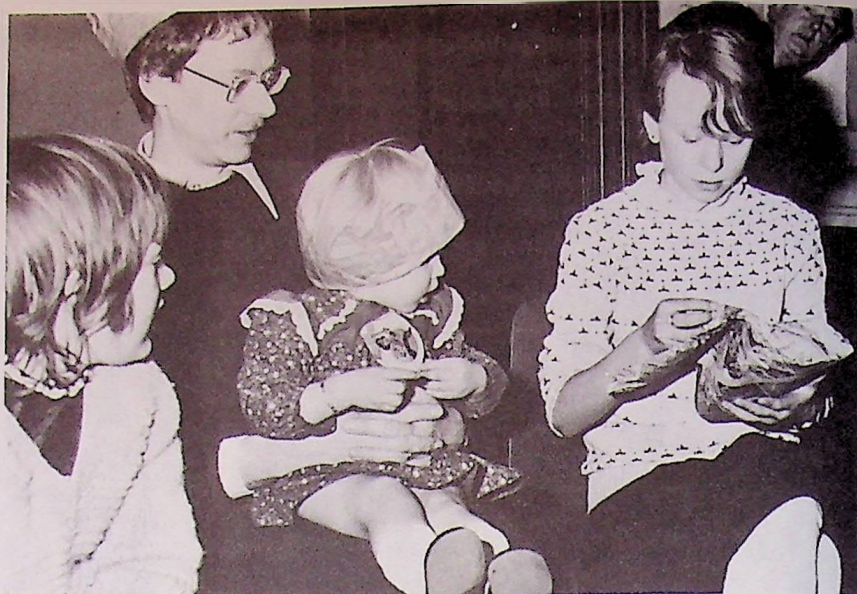


Photo: Market Harborough Advertiser

*Market Harborough has a keen group of young volunteers working with the Branches. Together they have run a Norfolk holiday for deprived children in Skegness. Recently they gave a great day out for 32 of these children – a theatre trip followed by a party and organised games.*

## BE STILL then....

Should you require Bible Reading Fellowship Notes and find difficulty in obtaining them at your local church, we can send them from here for £2 per annum. The Chaplain will send you the complete list of daily intercessions on request.

## BORDON LETTER

by Judith Rice

When the opportunity arose for me to go to Lourdes, I was uncertain – such trips belonged to that side of Catholicism from which I had always felt detached. I went in the end – partly because I wanted to do something in my vacation but also because I thought the experience would be interesting: as the time approached, I decided to make of my visit a pilgrimage. It is rare to be given the chance to enjoy a spiritual oasis, to put away the turbulence of daily life and the worry about the future. I resolved that I would not think about academic work; I would have no books with me other than spiritual ones; I would ask God to help me to use the week just to be quiet, to think, to pray and to listen.

I was one of a number of 'fill-ins' in a coach load made up for the most part of a mixture of seminary students (trainee priests) and Irish women! Many had been to Lourdes before: they go for different reasons, though all are united in a love for the place which seems inexplicable until one has been there

oneself. The women and their parish priest, a Lourdes veteran, who led our trip were all good friends and the resulting joviality was a little astonishing for a cuckoo in the nest like me. I had never participated in parish life (let alone Irish parish life!) and this journey to Lourdes gave me an insight into Catholicism at its most human, humorous and profound.

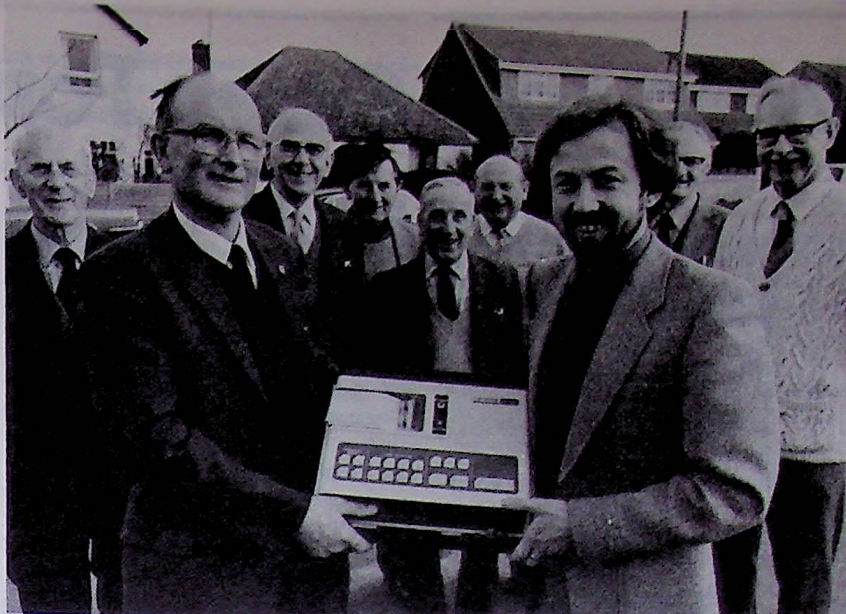
Above all, it left me with a sense of community at all levels – the Irish ladies from the Midlands, the seminary students, our coach journey, the gathered pilgrims at Lourdes. All the way there, peals of laughter came from the back of the bus where 'the ladies', as they were always called, were congregated. As we rattled through the idyllic fields of early morning Southern France, the seminarians took out their guitars and 'the ladies' their voices and hills and vineyards rushed past the window to the sound of 'Ave Maria' and other Catholic hits. Nor was that the only burst of musical camaraderie. There was a memorable evening in the hotel when we all sang hymns and popular songs. After a brief attempt at internationalism with 'Frere Jaques' for the benefit of our Swiss landlord we subsided happily into Irish favourite after good old Irish favourite.

But community is not just 'fun'.





*Southport spent much of the past year preparing their contribution to the town's annual charity carnival. Despite very dodgy weather, the Branch's stall raised £84.*



*Photo: Wiltshire Gazette and Herald*

*Chiseldon (Wilts) Branch Chairman hands over an electro-cardiograph machine for use in the Wroughton Health Centre. The Branch raised more than £1,700 – enough to buy the machine and provide a servicing contract.*

These women also share everyday life and they share suffering. One older lady had been to Lourdes frequently 'because she loves it'; later I learned that she had cancer. Two younger ladies had young children with them who were ill. Everyone helped them and everyone prayed for them – an every day sharing that was brought movingly into the open at the Mass for the anointing of the sick we held one sunny afternoon in a little chapel in the village near Lourdes where Bernadette spent her childhood years.

The seminarians formed a group different in flavour but no less a community of their own. They could be quite surprising, too. They drank beer on the ferry, smoked cigarettes and swapped (sometimes dubious) jokes. One or two had come straight from school but most had done something else before joining the seminary. There was a gentle academic who had come direct from the sixth form at school and a boisterous Cambridge graduate; a young ex-policeman and a man who had toured Europe and then gone to Sandhurst. They were all different but all had the strength to relish their differences, enjoy their variety and live as a community without fragmenting. Inevitably, I always found a ready and open minded answer to the questions that besieged me about Catholic doctrine: their own admitted struggles to understand helped me to realise that my own problems were real, my doubts sensible but that faith through those doubts was possible. I could not fail to be impressed by this totally unselfconscious variety: singing with the 'ladies', touring the cafes at nights, serving at Mass with genuine devotion.

And Lourdes itself is Catholic community incarnate. It is a strange place, functioning entirely around the focus for pilgrimage which has developed

at the grotto where Bernadette Soubirous saw a vision of Our Lady 125 years ago. Of course it is commercialised: owners of hotels and guest houses don't run them entirely for the love of God and the numerous tourist shops are more concerned with profit than spirituality. But, though pictures of 'Bernadette at home' and plaster statuettes of illuminated Madonnas can offend, they are only a part, and a well defined part, of Lourdes. And they are forbidden in the immediate area of the mighty basilica and the intimate grotto on which prayers and ceremonies are centred.

At the grotto itself, people are always to be seen in silent prayer before the simple statue and the candles which burn by day and night; behind them, a glorious river of mountain water rushes by. From there a procession winds its way by night to the main square. Anyone can join in, mingling candles and patterns of prayer and singing which do not change but are not static. That reliability allows an inner calm if one is only still, if one only listens. And at the same time one feels part of a magnificent whole – a feeling enhanced when the whole procession has filled the square before the basilica and come to a stop. From the front, prayers are led in a succession of languages, each one greeted with a raising of candles by those amidst the vast crowd who hear their own tongue and by a swelling of volume as they join in. The sense of the breadth of the Christian community, all there in that one square in France, is immense.

For, whatever any of us may think about Catholic ritual, this universality is its strength. The repeated recital of the Rosary while waiting to go in the baths and the processional prayers and singing were unusual to me but they had a ritual and reliability of their own.

The Mass is always the same in basic format and meaning but it does not suffer from a dull uniformity. In Lourdes, our group shared Mass in early evening on the hotel balcony and in mid-morning on a dusty veranda in a nearby village. On one extraordinary occasion I shall never forget, we joined in the Mass for the Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust whose visit had coincided with ours. It was held in the vast underground basilica: the huge space was filled with white robed priests and children in wheelchairs and everywhere the distinctive striped 'bobble hats' worn by all connected with the Trust. This was Catholic theatre at its best – bishops from England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland concelebrated and, as each was introduced, he was greeted by his section of the vast congregation with tumultuous applause. The singing was vital and people of all ages, sick and healthy, held hands and raised them high above their heads in praise. The exuberance of this Mass could hardly have been in greater contrast to the quiet intensity of the Mass our own small group had shared a few days before on a windy hillside near the Spanish border, with the Pyrenees rising sheer and awe-ful behind us. But in both there was a deep joy, a tremendous sense of sharing and a special opportunity for personal prayer.

The combination of the two is essential. Never in my trip to Lourdes did the community swallow up the individual: I felt free to think and do as I liked: I could go off on my own or I could conform. But for once in my life there was a certain pleasure in conforming, in being carried along by the crowd and by the sharing, while my own still centre became stiller and stronger and, through others, grew a little closer to God.



# Welcome Open Forum

The following Branches elected new members during January/February.

- 5 — Swans Poperinge (J) Group
- 3 — Buckley (M)
- 2 — Barrow-on-Humber (J),  
Holland-on-Sea (W), Pickering (J),  
Trimley (W)
- 1 — Acklam (W), Birmingham District,  
Bromborough (W),  
Buckingham (M), Burraton (W),  
Central Overseas, Chalfonts (J),  
Cheltenham (J), Edgbaston (J),  
Fleet (J), Griffithstown (M),  
Mochdre (J), Paignton (M),  
Shooters Hill District,  
Southport (J), Thornaby (J),  
Worthing (M), Yorkshire Area (J)  
Group.

A warm welcome to 34 new members



Two aspects of the Peak District Children's Camp last year — the food was excellent, even if the weather wasn't all it should be!

## Nuclear Deterrence

The Editor (*Personal View*, February issue) believes, it would seem, that our survival depends on the continuing matching of death dealing weapons with death dealing weapons, and it would seem he knows of nothing in the New Testament that could be a guide to finding a way of establishing peace between adversaries.

Is there nothing that can be done now to begin the work of fashioning H-bombs into tractors? No supernatural power will do it for us!

The confronting statesmen seem to be concerned only to oppose arsenal with arsenal. Would a more helpful way for nation to speak to nation be to arrange for a party of Christian leaders, including the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Pope, to meet with Mr Andropov in Moscow to try to get to the bottom of the mutual fear of the blocs?

**Bob Overend**  
*Hoddesdon*

Congratulations on February's *Personal View* on Nuclear Disarmament.

Like all sane people, I, too, wish for world peace so that we can live as brothers, but unfortunately we have to live in the world as it is, not as we hope it should be.

To me the situation in the world today is very like what it was in the 1930s: high unemployment, economic depression, a desire for peace, a very active disarmament movement and a totalitarian regime whose ambition is world domination. We must not make the same mistake this time: resolute action by Britain, France and America against the Nazis in the early 30s would have prevented World War Two and the death of 10-12 million, most of whom were civilians. In addition we would not be faced with the same problems that so beset us today.

True peace will come only when people cease to want what the other has. Until then we must be resolute and strong because this alone will prevent the strong taking from the weak.

I ask every member to recall what has happened during the lifetime of our Movement and to ensure that the same mistakes are not made again.

**John Silvester**  
*Anstey*

First, may I put the record straight. Writing as one who was at Greenham Common from before lunch until after dusk on Sunday 12 December, there were

on that day many more than the 10,000 quoted. It was generally agreed in the Press and on the BBC that the number encircling the nine mile perimeter fence with clasped hands was about 30,000, most but not all of whom were women. If the figure of 10,000 referred to the women's blockade of the base on the following day, I can agree, but that was not what was said.

However, more important than the question of how many attended, if Toc H is in fact a Christian Movement, and if the words 'To know His Will revealed in Christ and to do it fearlessly . . . ' have any real meaning, how is it possible to discuss the deployment of weapons of mass murder and of mass suicide — weapons which cause firestorms of unimaginable ferocity where eyeballs melt and men, women and children, including the sick, and unborn and the aged, are incinerated, where millions are killed by blast, and where the land is poisoned with radioactive fallout — how is it possible to discuss these weapons and the threat to use them with not one word about the immorality of such a policy? Surely we must ask would Jesus Christ bless their use? And if not, how can we, as individuals, sanction the threat to use them, the preparation to use them, and the actual use of such utterly indiscriminate, obscene weapons?

We are told that we have to have Cruise, Trident, nuclear armed bombers and submarines to deter Russia from attacking us. The Russians are told they must have missiles, 'planes, tanks, submarines etc to deter the West, and also China, from attacking them. To live by menaces and threats of reprisal is the very opposite of peace. Deterrence is clearly condemned in the New Testament where we are instructed never to recompense evil with evil. Surely the risks of disarming are insignificant compared with the risks of rearming. As a policy, deterrence is both foolish and wrong, being based on a fallacy. It can only increase the risk of war, and can give no guarantee whatever that it will always deter. The statement that the deterrent has prevented war in Europe for 37 years can neither be proved nor disproved. It reminds me of the story of the man falling from the 99th floor of a skyscraper, and as he hurtled down past the 20th floor he called out 'See, I'm still in one piece'. By deliberately engendering uncertainty and fear as a strategy, deterrence itself deters the other side from taking the first step towards disarmament.

In the Third World at least 750 million people live in what the World



Opinions expressed in these columns (including any editorial comment) are those of the contributor and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement. We reserve the right to edit letters. Only letters carrying the correspondent's full name and address will be considered for publication.

Bank has called 'absolute poverty', yet we divert massive resources of scientific skill and money away from improving those intolerable conditions and disparities which frequently lead to war.

Unilateralists would be delighted if they could see multilateral disarmament actually happening, but the truth is the arms race has continued and accelerated, until today it is estimated that the world nuclear arsenal has the equivalent explosive power of one million Hiroshimas.

I quoted above from the Main Resolution of Toc H. Again I ask 'Do we mean it?' Or is it mere words, words, words?

Frank Perkins  
Oxford

There was an excellent letter in a recent Daily Telegraph pointing out the stupidity of allowing our country to become defenceless. It was written by a lady who is totally opposed to any further conflict. She emphasised the importance of possessing deterrents to stop aggressors and suggested that the place to demonstrate was in Red Square.

It would be foolish for any nation that has any self respect whatsoever for its principles and way of life to practise unilateral disarmament. Our Lord said *'So long as a strong man fully armed guard his own place, his goods are undisturbed; but when someone stronger than he is attacks and defeats him, the stronger man takes away all the weapons he relied on and shares out his spoil.'*

Prevention is better than cure; in this sad world of ours I for one wish to know that I am being protected by whatever deterrents are considered sufficient. I am sure that God does not expect us to sit back defenceless. On the contrary we should stand ready and alert, ever watchful behind His banner. If this means nuclear weapons because the other side has them, and if it prevents hostilities breaking out, well, that is one thing to be thankful for.

Revd C A Cardale  
Totnes

### World Disarmament Campaign

The ever increasing support given to the World Disarmament Campaign by the Churches encourages me to write to extend an invitation to your readers to become members and to encourage their local Churches to affiliate to us.

The many resolutions of support for our Campaign passed by Church Bodies include one passed with no

dissentient votes at the 13th Assembly of the British Council of Churches. Point 5 of that Resolution declared *'This Assembly calls upon all Christians to support the World Disarmament Campaign as one way of advocating the multi-lateral or unilateral approach towards disarmament by signing its petition and encouraging others to do so'*. Churches up and down the country responded magnificently to that call and continued their support on the weekend 30/31 January last year when services and vigils for peace and disarmament were held in Cathedrals, Parish Churches, Village Chapels and Quaker Meeting Houses from Northern Ireland to East Anglia and from the Channel Isles to Scotland.

We had hoped that after SSD2 the Campaign might come to an end but the disappointing (though not disastrous) outcome and the enthusiasm of our many supporters have convinced us that we must not only continue but expand. We have decided that to do this WDC must now be put on a more formal footing with individual and corporate members.

The annual subscription for individual members is £6 (couples £8) pensioners and unwaged £3. Local Churches and other local associations are invited to affiliate and to pay a minimum annual fee of £10 (although difficulty in subscribing this amount should not deter churches or societies who wish to join up). Please send to WDC, 238 Camden Road, London NW1.

The BCC Resolution to which I referred earlier declared that Military Budgets make demands which are *denials* of Christian understandings of how resources are to be used. We must put an end to these demands so that the resources of the world can be used to end poverty and disease and provide for a sane and happy future for the generations which come after us. We must not fail.

Fenner Brockway (Lord)  
Chairman WDC

### Early Blood Donors

We have heard in recent issues from members who have in past years given blood. I was initiated into Montreal Central Branch in September 1929. Two years later the Montreal Voluntary Blood Transfusion Service was founded.

I have kept for many years my Record of Transfusions. In those days the donor was introduced to the patient and later was sent results of the transfusion. Following the giving of blood we had to rest for 30 minutes and were given a good

shot of whisky — more satisfying than the cup of tea given today!

I wonder if there are any other ex-members of Montreal Central, West End, Verdun and St Lambert Branches (also now non-existent) still around? If so I would be very glad to renew their acquaintance; like the lady from Nottingham I am approaching my 79th anniversary.

Bill Barber  
Hatfield

## Please Note Friends of Cuddesdon House

In May 1982, the Friends launched an appeal for the Chapel conversion described by Colin Rudd elsewhere in this issue. To date, this appeal has raised £27,000 against a target figure of £30,000. Many people have wanted to contribute and the Friends are confident that they will soon reach their target.

The work is going ahead well and the Friends will soon need to purchase furnishings and fittings. Enquiries are already reaching them from members and others who wish to be associated with this final stage. They will be happy to receive any donations and undertake to allocate them in accordance with the donors' wishes. Cheques should be made payable to 'Friends of Cuddesdon House' and sent to: Frank and Dorothy Kirk, 153 Welbeck Road, Long Eaton, Nottingham NG10 4GR.

## A background paper for your group discussions

You can now get a booklet entitled *'Unemployment and the Future of Work'*. This is a collection of seven papers including *'The End of the Century'* and *'60 things you can do now'*. If you want a copy (price 70p + p & p), write to: Room 463, Church House, Dean's Yard, London SW1P 3NZ.



# We will Remember...

Lack of space has compelled us to hold over some obituary notices received. We hope to include these in future issues.

— Editor

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

## In November

Athol E J Voisey (Thanet District)  
Annie Kirkup (Scunthorpe)

## In December

Ian W McDougall (Warley)  
Frances R Pulfer (Holland-on-Sea)  
Ellen Wilson (late of Deganwy)

## In January

Harold Barnes (Cirencester)  
Percy Boorman (Strode Park & Herne)  
Doris W Cook (Melton and Charnwood District)

Glyn W Davies (Morecambe)  
Dorothy K J Doe (Stowmarket)  
A Ken B Ede (Exmouth)  
Wilfred Gee (Budleigh Salterton)  
Wilfred O Hedley (Scunthorpe)  
Richard J Juffs (South East Hants District)

Jack W Marshall (Burraton)  
Amy Miller (Corsham)  
Frederick Parker (Seaford)  
Elsie Potter (South Sussex District)  
Derek Eldridge-Smith (Bournemouth and Christchurch)  
E Charles Walkley (Brandon)  
Elsie Wedge (Salcombe)  
George E 'Timber' Wood (Tavistock)

## In February

W Frederick Brooker (Southampton District)  
Rosina M Burgoyne (Kingswood)  
Ethel F Davey (Cardiff)  
Henry F J Eastick (Gorleston-on-Sea and Great Yarmouth)  
Bertram Richardson (Bakewell)  
Richard J W Ayshford-Sanford (Broadway)  
Cyril Simms (Coleorton)  
Phyllis M Whiteley (Ulverston)

**Elsie Christine Potter**, who died in January, aged 92, was drawn to Toc H in its early days, having suffered great personal losses during the first World War. She was made a member at a meeting of the Men's Branch in Burwash, Sussex in 1931. . . . In 1932 she joined the Westminster Branch, and, with Gertrude Greenacre, became one of the first two Area staff of what was then called the League of Women Helpers, travelling round the country speaking and visiting Branches in the early 1930s. She became London Secretary for a few years before joining the staff in South Africa in 1937.

After Elsie's three years consolidating the Movement, Toc H in 1941 were asked by General Smuts to

take on the responsibility for the 'Welfare and Recreational facilities for the newly formed Women in the Forces'. Later, the women had their own Service Welfare officers, and Toc H organised the Clubs and Canteens. With the job came word that Mrs Smuts would be interested, and she became Chairman, with Mrs Joyce Todd and Mrs Vera Mackenzie indefatigable Vice-Chairmen. Although by 1941 the membership was scattered, with many first class members already serving in the Forces or Red Cross, in most places available members were found to serve on local committees. By 1945 there were 30 Clubs or Canteens, including residential ones, in all the large towns, a mobile canteen outside the Military Hospital in Pretoria and a Holiday House near Pretoria. With never more than three months in any one place and much night travel, the train coupe became Elsie's most permanent bedroom.

On her return in August 1945 she became the first Overseas Secretary at Women's Association headquarters in a part time capacity, retiring from staff work in 1950. She remained in close touch with the work, serving on the Central Executive Committee and as Chairman of the Overseas Committee for many years, where she made a strong contribution. She was a great support and help to staff members, especially to the International Secretary, having travelled widely, quite apart from her work for Toc H in South Africa and Rhodesia.

Elsie was a thoughtful member of the Anglican Church and for some years Secretary of her Parochial Church Council and of the Deanery and Diocesan Councils. Although with intellectual interests and widely read, especially in theology and current affairs, Elsie had a practical streak in her and was a great fighter for the things she considered of importance in life. She kept in touch with a large circle of friends, amongst whom was numbered Alan Paton, and was informed and concerned at the situation in S Africa and Rhodesia. She had a delightful sense of humour and was an accomplished and generous hostess. There was a warm welcome in her home at Wadhurst, Sussex, for any members of Toc H especially those from other countries, many of whom will remember her with real affection.

*'Ramsgate Women's Branch are mourning the sudden death at the end of October of Gladys Pope — their Pilot since 1971. Gladys was calm and quietly*

*efficient in everything she undertook and could always be depended upon when help was needed — counselling, contacting sick members, arranging Rededication services, helping at the local hospital canteen or at a jumble sale.*

*'As well as her Toc H activities, she was a deacon of the Cavendish Baptist church, which she attended regularly up to the day prior to her death. She worked tirelessly for sales of work and other Church functions and, despite a painful leg complaint which made walking difficult, spent a lot of time visiting the sick and elderly.*

*'With all this she still found time to indulge her love of plants of all kinds, and many a home or garden boasts at least one specimen started by Gladys's green fingers.'*

EH

**Mrs Nell Collett** died on 31 December at the age of 76. Nell, *'a cheerful Londoner, was not a member but for 38 years she cleaned the Headquarters offices at Victoria, Trinity Square and Crutched Friars. Sadly she did not long survive her retirement, but we are thankful that she enjoyed working for Toc H in the early hours when most of us were abed'*

KRR

Early Branch write to tell us that **Ian Walter McDougall** died in December last, aged 71. He had been an Earley member since 1950 and, for many years before then, a member in Scotland. He was a man of many parts, and deeply respected wherever he went. Besides his Toc H work, he was deeply involved with his church, Age Concern, the Town Council and much more. He was a lover of sport and a member of a number of county cricket clubs. He will be sadly missed by his family and his many friends.

**John Joseph Horwood** (Chichester) died just after Christmas. He was a member from 1954 of Coney Hall (Kent) Branch, serving as Treasurer and as Secretary. In the early 1960s he retired and moved to Chichester, helping to re-form the Branch there. Since the demise of Chichester Branch, he has been a faithful Builder. John was the designer of Adlington's banner.

We give thanks for their lives



# 'HOSPICE' IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Last Autumn, Arend Hoogervorst — a former member of Toc H staff in S Africa — presented a paper prepared in conjunction with Stan Henen on the Hospice Association of the Witwatersrand at an International Cancer Conference in Seattle, USA. The paper was entitled 'The Advanced Cancer Patient and Hospice Concept', and is produced here in part as it has a special reference to the role played by Toc H in developing Hospice in Southern Africa.

The term "Hospice" seems to have developed two meanings: one, the original, describing a physical building providing a certain type of specialised care and the other used to describe a concept of caring being a multi-disciplinary mode of caring and support for the terminally ill patient and his family. It has been shown to be desirable to provide palliative and supporting care to meet the needs which may arise out of the physical, emotional, spiritual, social and economic stresses associated with the final stages of illness, the process of dying and bereavement. Due to the emphasis on curative therapy in South Africa, the medical and para-medical professions receive little or no training in caring for the terminally ill, and thus tend to minimise their contacts in this area. It is only comparatively recently that any significant changes in this approach have come about. Broader economic forces also play a role in the overall situation in that an often unspoken attitude can develop which suggests that efforts should rather be put into caring for those who can be cured rather than the terminally ill patient who will be ultimately a loss as an economic unit.

'Against this kind of backcloth, a scene is presented whereby a gap exists in the general health system which can only be filled by voluntary organisations. Hospice care as a named, recognised concept, is no more than ten years old in South Africa. Individuals throughout the country, had, however, been applying some of the basic concepts in their caring approach, for many years before that. Specific awareness of the concepts was highlighted through visits to South Africa by Dame Cecily Saunders, Professor Michael Simpson, Tom West and others. The effect of this was to create a body of professional and lay people from all walks of life who began to try and pursue the matter of Hospice care further. This awareness of specific needs of the terminally ill patient created an urgency

for action which had not previously existed. Voluntary organisations then began to take action. For example, the National Cancer Association of South Africa sent its National Secretary on an extensive overseas tour of Hospices on the American Continent to gather information.

'A community voluntary welfare organisation called Toc H gave support to the establishment of a Community Hospice Steering Committee in Johannesburg by allowing one of its Field Staff to devote time to co-ordinating and assisting in the continuity of the group. A liaison developed between the National Cancer Association and the Community Hospice Steering Committee (later to become the Hospice Association of the Witwatersrand) which still exists today. The major manifestation of this is the existence of a joint support team for the full time home terminal care nursing staff working for the Hospice Association and the NCA. Toc H's role in the early days of the Steering was to hold the diverse individuals and groups together so that they could discuss and get used to a cohesion and co-operation that was unheard of previously. Toc H further supplemented this by temporarily seconding a second Field Officer which helped in the establishment of the mechanism and administration of a

programme of home terminal care in the Johannesburg area. The NCA established a Pilot Home Care Nursing Advisory Service for the terminally ill and the two programmes were able to function separately, but working together very closely.

'In other parts of the country similar groups were springing up, also assisted by voluntary organisations. In Port Elizabeth a doctor, with the aid of Lifeline, the St John's Ambulance Corps and the NCA, established a Hospice Group which was born out of the Radiotherapy Department of the Provincial Hospital. It seems that in their formation, the groups were very much influenced in their structure and development by local conditions such as the degree of local medical and para-medical support available, the availability of money, equipment, suitable buildings, etc.

'The result of this is that there exists in South Africa today a number of autonomous multi-discipline Hospice Groups of differing nature and structure and size, the only common denominator being their aim of providing a multi-discipline caring service for the terminally ill and their families. It is interesting to note that virtually all the groups developed with the aid of one or other voluntary organisations.'



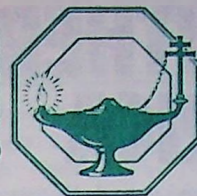
*Hythe's Salvationists recently held a special friendship festival with marches, spiritual music and SA anthems, a classical organ recital and other attractions. The proceeds — more than £200 — were donated to Hythe's Toc H coach appeal.*

Photo: S Kent Newspapers



# 50 YEARS AGO!

(From Toc H Journal, April 1933)



## 'Warden Manor, Isle of Sheppey

'Warden Manor is the centre of the tiny village of Warden Point, which is between Minster and Leysdown, Isle of Sheppey, Kent. It has been purchased by a Toc H member and is now open for the holiday use of members, probationers and friends of Toc H and LWH. It is a comfortable 17th century Manor House amid unspoilt country, with grassy cliffs and quiet sands within sight and very easy reach. It was used by its previous owner as a small hotel and is partly modernised inside, with bathrooms and quiet rooms — one each for Jack and Jill!

'For a true Toc H holiday the personal touch of fellowship counts above all, and there Warden Manor starts remarkably well. For its hosts are Vic Martin (late of Oxford Branch) and Mrs Martin, whose qualities are already so well known to members in many places that we can spare their blushes by making no further comment. They have taken over the wardenship and are already in residence, awaiting their guests. Vic may be trusted to help provide a varied programme, outdoors and in, the visitors will also find a fine little church on the road to Leysdown, served by a Padre who is keen on Toc H.

'The Manor is, of course, to be run on the basis of paying expenses but making no profit. The charge is to be 45s per week, which includes not only board and lodging but the free use of a hard tennis court, bathing hut, deck chairs and garage. The weekend charge (tea on Saturday to after dinner on Sunday evening) will be 10s and units can book weekends for parties during the Spring. In the quieter months of this first season . . . the privilege rate of 45s a week will be extended to guests introduced by Toc H, even if they be non-members. Warden Manor is 51 miles from London. The average journey by train is three hours, by car two hours: the fare by train or coach is 6s 10d return. It is hoped to arrange day visits from London by special motor-coach at 7s 6d, including fare, lunch and tea . . .'

## Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 5p a word (minimum 50p) to Point Three Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover. Telephone: 0296 623911.

**Fund Raising.** Spring flower bulbs for resale at direct from grower prices. Good profits to be made on quality daffodils, tulips, crocus, hyacinths etc. Add a new dimension to your autumn fayres, coffee morning etc. Price list sent on request. M K & B Chappell, Fengate Road, West Pinchbeck, Spalding, Lincs (Tel: Pinchbeck Bars 381).

**Raise funds quickly, easily.** Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc gold stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford BD1 3HE.

**North Wales.** Happy family hotel, children welcome. H & C all rooms. Two minutes sandy beach and shops. Easy reach North Wales beauty spots and Snowdonia National Park. Parties welcome. SAE brochure: 'The Dolphin', 4 Paradise Crescent, Penmaenmawr, Gwynedd LL34 6AR. Tel: 0492 622223.

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**Bruges, Belgium.** Hotel Jacobs, (established 50 years) welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city within easy reach of other famous cities of art, and of the coast. Comfortable, modernised hotel. Quiet situation. Parking. English spoken. Strongly recommended. Bed and breakfast only. Mr Jules Lietaert, Hotel Jacobs, Baliestraat 1, Bruges, 8000. Telephone: 010-32-50 3398 31/32.

**Conwy.** Dinner and B & B £9 per day. Weekends, midweek bookings, ideal for walking, touring, near sea and mountains. Doreen and Bill Baxter, Llys Gwilym Guest House, 3 Mountain Road, Cadnant Park, Conwy, Gwynedd, N Wales. Tel: 049 263 2351.

**Weymouth,** bed, breakfast, evening meal from £48 week. Weekend breaks from £14.50. Bar, free parking. Also inclusive coach holidays from most parts of country from about £80 week. Mrs Cole, Kirtleton House, 21 Kirtleton Avenue, Weymouth. Tel: 0305 785296.

**North Wales, Pwllheli,** comfortable holiday flats on seafront, all with panoramic sea views, sleeps 2-6. Toc H area. Apply: Marine-View, Promenade, Pwllheli. Tel: 2758 or 4303.

**Folkestone.** Les and Mary Tripp offer homely, personal service. Reasonable terms. Families welcome. Claremont Private Hotel, Folkestone, Kent CT20 1DQ. Tel: 0303 54897.



KING GEORGE'S HOUSE

## YMCA

### VISITING LONDON?

Economical, convenient for central London. Single, double, multi-bedded rooms, lounge, restaurant, coffee-bar, TV, Chapel. Bed/breakfast, optional dinner. Group package tours, group conferences. Rates from £5.40. YMCA, Stockwell, London SW9 9ES — Telephone: 01-274 7861.

**Mallorca.** Mountain village holiday in historic Valldemosa. Fully modernised 15th century house sleeps up to six. Available from 1 May. Minimum stay two weeks. Full particulars from owner: Mrs Gillian Barnett, 21B Canfield Gardens, London NW6. Tel: 01 624 5805.